

United States Department of Agriculture



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Transmitted via Email

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-08-18

SUBJECT: ECS – MINNESOTA INVASIVE SPECIES CONFERENCE (MNISC)

Purpose. To announce the Minnesota Invasive Species Conference (MNISC) and provide directions for attending.

Expiration Date. November 1, 2008.

Invasive species are increasingly threatening Minnesota's natural resources. NRCS employees are often on the front-line of identifying new outbreaks and documenting existing infestations of both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species whether they are plant, animal, insect or disease. Because of our relationship with landowners and the ability to provide cost-share through EQIP, it is important to stay educated about identifying, controlling, managing or eradicating invasive species on cropland, forestland and in water bodies.

MNISC is designed to improve management and minimize the impacts of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. Presentations will cover innovative research, management techniques, outreach, and technological developments related to the ecology, impacts, prevention, containment, early detection and rapid response, control and management, and if possible eradication, of multiple invasive species. The issue of restoration following the treatment of invasives will also be presented.

The conference is being held October 26 – 29, 2008, at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC). There are pre-conference tours and workshops as well as post-conference technical tours. See the Preliminary Program (attached) for a listing of workshops, tours, presentations, posters and other program information. A block of rooms have been reserved under the name "Minnesota Invasive Species Conference" at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites (218-722-1202). The room cost is \$74 per night plus taxes, the allowed lodging rate. Reservations must be made no later than Friday, September 26, 2008.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) encourages attendance and participation by employees at career-related professional conferences that enhance career development and professionalism. Employees desiring to attend this training on official time and expense must get their supervisor's approval. An approved MN-PER-025 is required for expenses paid by NRCS. Time spent traveling outside of work hours to this event is not considered hours of work for overtime, compensatory time or accrual of credit leave.

For information about this bulletin or about the MNISC contact Ginger Kopp, State Staff Forester, 651-602-7909.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

Attachment

DIST: AE

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